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1      **RELATED APPLICATIONS**

2      This application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending application Ser. No.  
3      09/847,534, filed May 1, 2001, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Correlating  
4      Events", and incorporated herein by reference.

5      **TECHNICAL FIELD**

6      The present invention relates to computing systems and, more particularly,  
7      to a language for describing templates used to collect and correlate various events  
8      generated throughout a computing environment.

9      **BACKGROUND**

10     Computer systems, such as servers and desktop personal computers, are  
11    expected to operate without constant monitoring. These computer systems  
12    typically perform various tasks without the user's knowledge. When performing  
13    these tasks, the computer system often encounters events that require a particular  
14    action (such as logging the event, generating an alert for a particular system or  
15    application, or performing an action in response to the event). Various  
16    mechanisms are available to handle these events.

17     A computing enterprise typically includes one or more networks, services,  
18    and systems that exchange data and other information with one another. The  
19    enterprise may include one or more security mechanisms to safeguard data and  
20    authenticate users and may utilize one or more different data transmission  
21    protocols. At any particular time, one or more networks, services or systems may  
22    be down (e.g., powered down or disconnected from one or more networks).